

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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53

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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P 101200Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5446

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 2834

EXDIS

FOR ACTING ASSISTANT SECRTY YATAVIS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TS, US

SUBJ: PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S PROJECTED VISIT TO U.S.

REF: A) STATE 094644

B) TUNIS 2764

C) TUNIS 2575

1. AS YOU KNOW, I AM RETURNING TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATION ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 15. BEFORE LEAVING TUNIS I AM PLANNING CALL ON PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA AND FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTI. THEY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RAISE SUBJECT OF PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S SCHEDULED VISIT TO U.S.

2. WHILE I APPRECIATE DIFFICULTIES IN CONFIRMING DATE FOR BOURGUIBA'S VISIT, IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF I COULD BEFORE I DEPART AT LEAST INDICATE TREND OF THINKING. FOR EXAMPLE, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE I WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO SAY FOLLOWING: (A) BECAUSE PRESIDENT NIXON'S PLANS ARE STILL UP IN THE AIR AND SINCE DECISION RE BOURGUIBA VISIT DURING FIRST WEEK IN JUNE PROBABLY CANNOT BE MADE UNTIL NEAR END OF MAY, WE PROPOSE FOR TUNISIAN CONSIDERATION POSTPONING BOURGUIBA VISIT UNTIL LATER DATE IN JUNE (HOPEFULLY SPECIFIED; (B) IF LATTER DATE IN JUNE IS UNSATISFACTORY TO TUNISIANS, WE ARE WILLING TO AGREE TO FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTI'S SUGGESTION THAT BOURGUIBA
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VISIT BE POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT FALL; (C) IF ON OTHER HAND

GOT DOES NOT RPT NOT MIND WAITING UNTIL END OF MAY FOR
A DECISION RE VISIT TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED DURING FIRST
WEEK IN JUNE, WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO DELAYING
PLANS TO POSTPONE VISIT.

3. IF DEPARTMENT IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE ME WITH ANYTHING
OF THIS NATURE BEFORE I LEAVE, I WILL MERELY TELL PRIME
MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER THAT WORD FROM WASHINGTON IS
EXPECTED SHORTLY AND WILL BE CONVEYED TO GOT BY CHARGE.
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